MARVEL®

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

1st Part THOMAS WINTER GAME INSIDE!

ERTL COMPETITION INSIDE!

Donald

Douglas

Happy New Year!

02>
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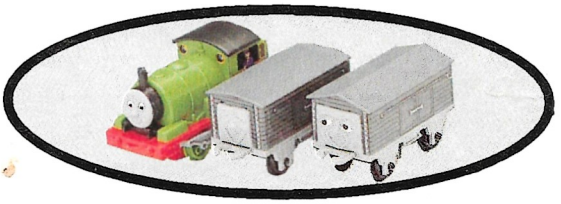
NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! After the Christmas season is over it can become very quiet on the Fat Controller's railway. But this year, the Fat Controller is hoping to organise a very special celebration for the New Year. Turn to page 3 to find out who has been invited! In our second story, you can discover why Diesel is still celebrating Christmas! Peep! Peep!

NEW YEAR COMPETITION!

ERTL UK Ltd have introduced new toys to their **Pre-school range!** We have featured them as competition prizes! You could be a lucky winner on page 14!



4 PART THOMAS GAME!

A splendid **Thomas Game** *(illustrated by Jane Launchbury)* begins in this issue and continues until issue 166!

How to obtain your Fat Controller's Card!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, send one red, yellow and blue token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: **The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

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THOMAS TOKEN

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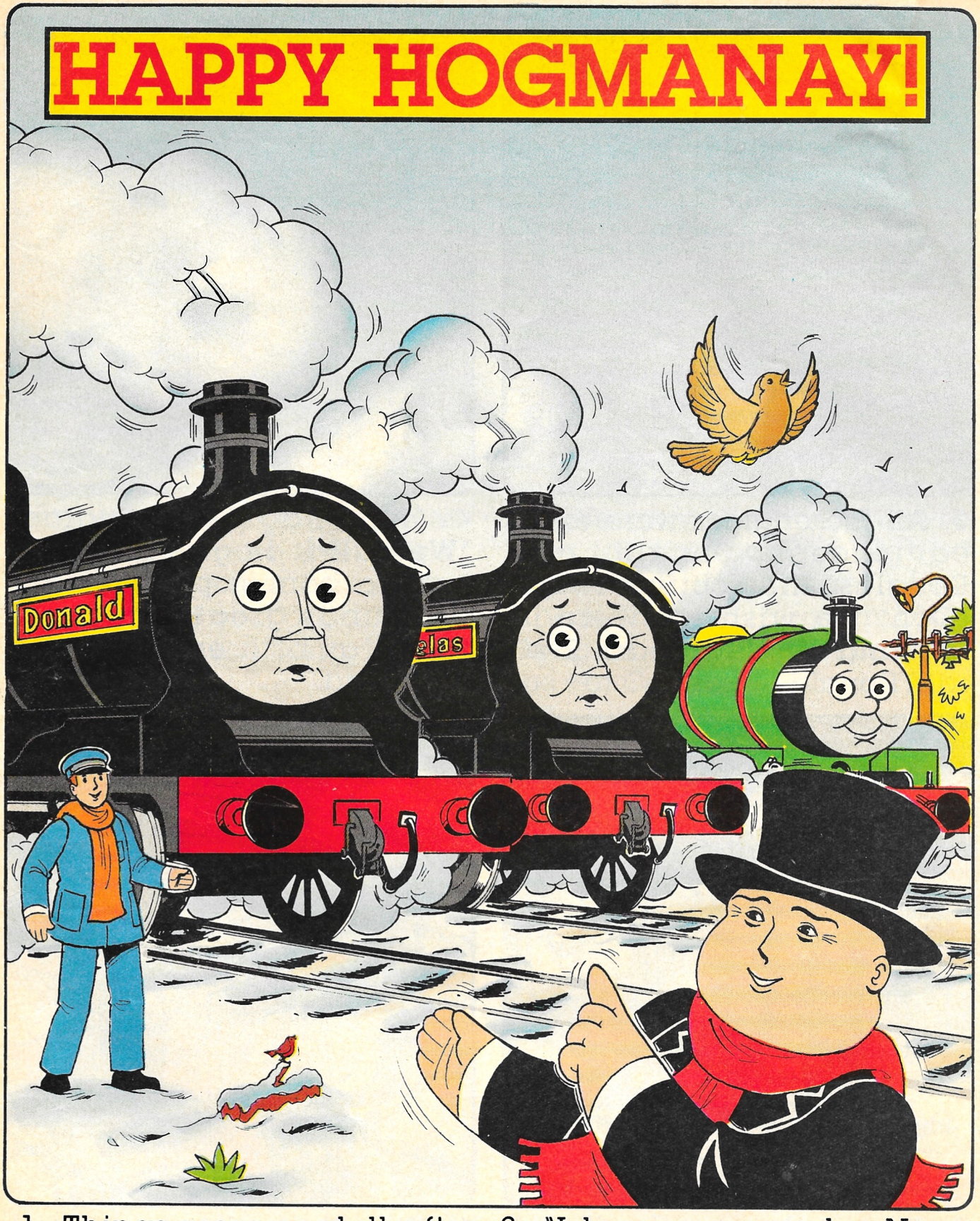
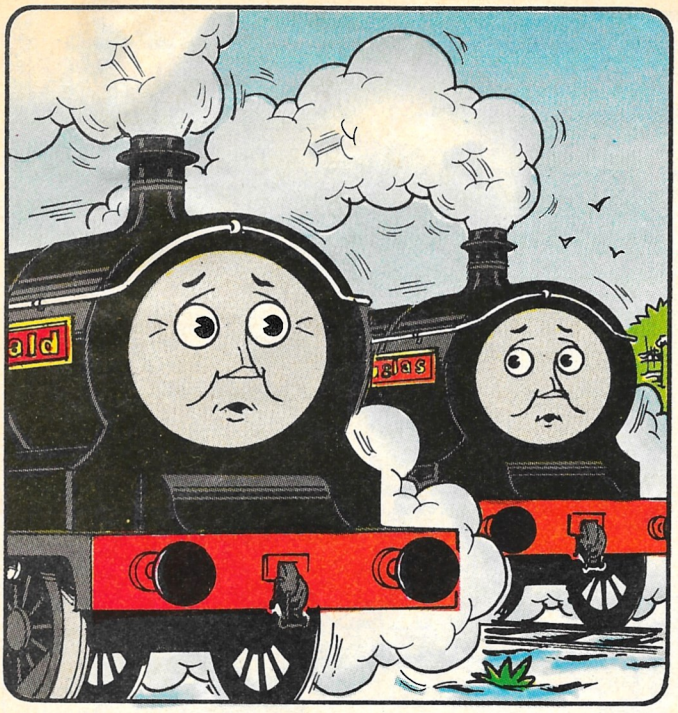
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

HAPPY HOGMANAY!

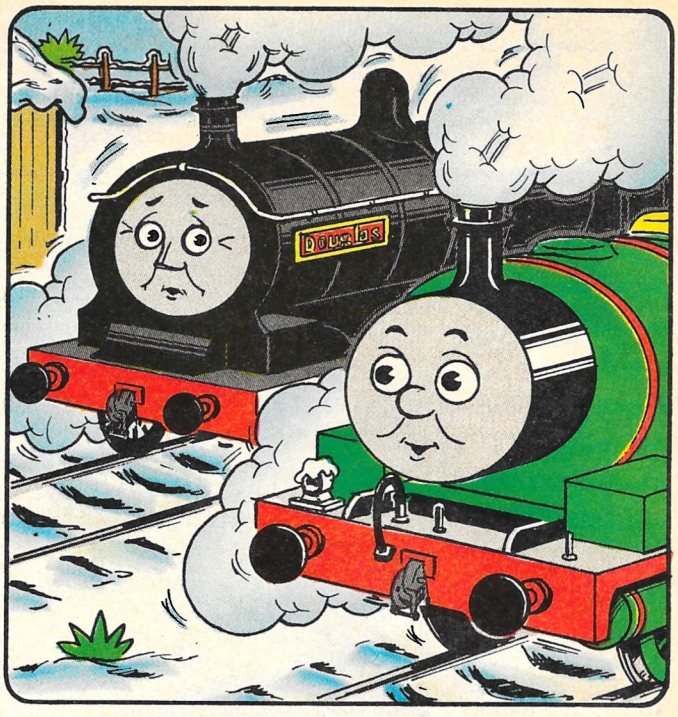


1. Things were so dull after Christmas that the Fat Controller decided to cheer everyone up with a surprise. He called his engines and staff together.

2. "I have arranged a New Year's Eve party for everyone," he announced in the Main Station yard. "We shall see in the New Year with a grand celebration!"

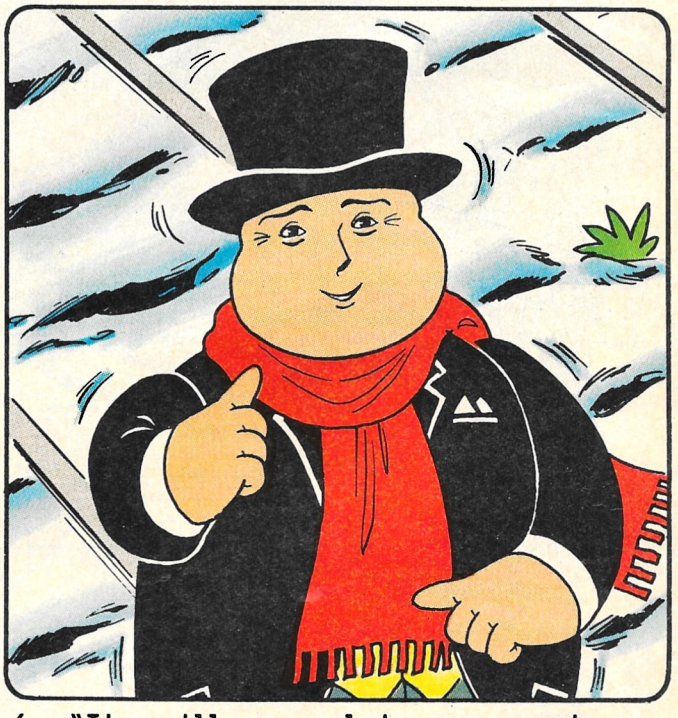


3. All the engines were excited except Donald and Douglas, the Scottish twins. "Och, we wish we were in Scotland for New Year's Eve!" said Donald.

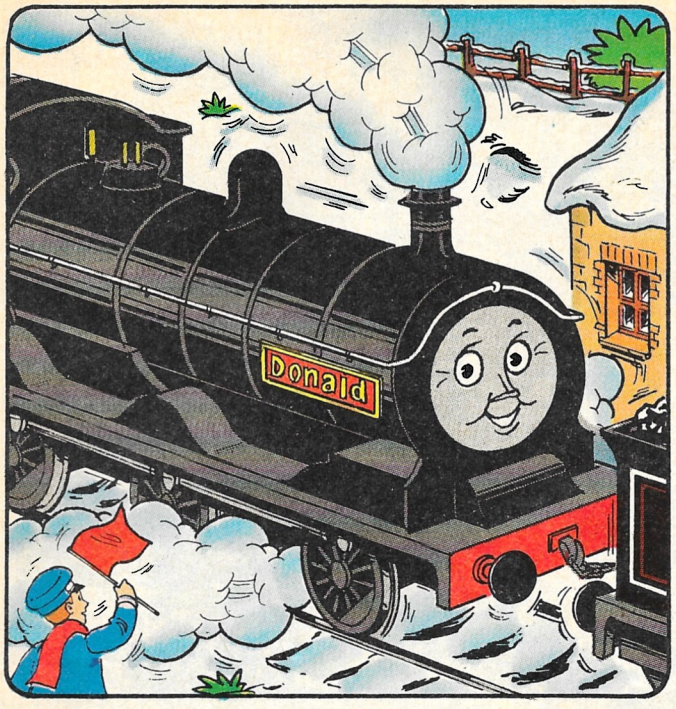


4. "Aye," agreed Douglas. "We call it Hogmanay and have a bonnie party there!" "It sounds great fun," said Percy, as both engines went on ahead.

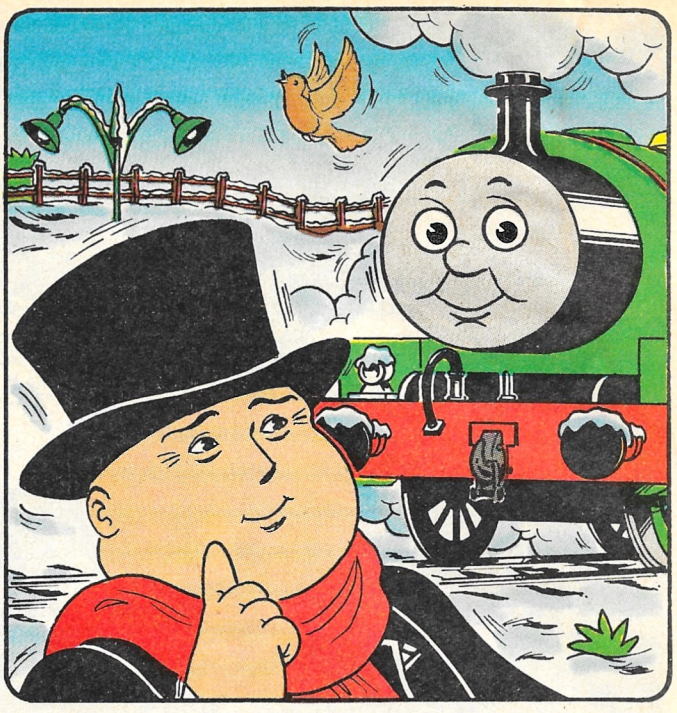
5. Before the engines went about their tasks, the Fat Controller had something else to say. There was a very large freight-load to be delivered urgently.



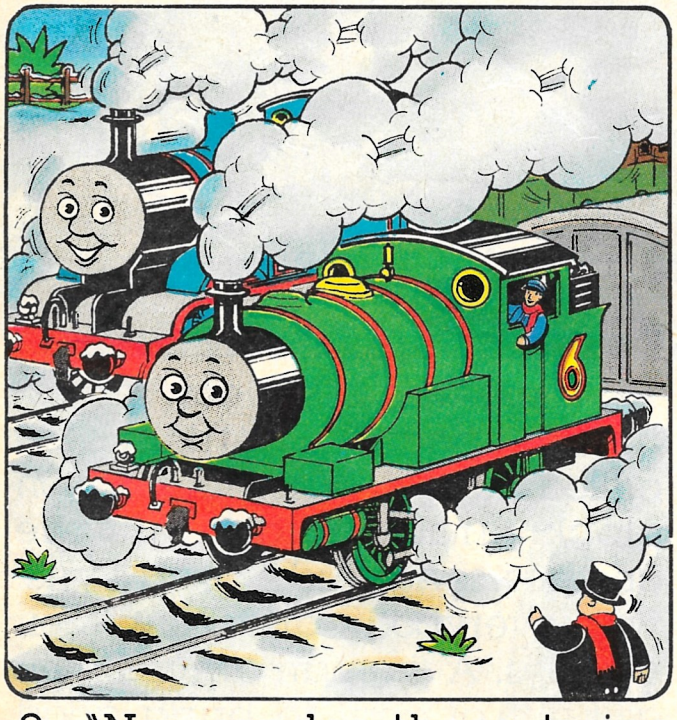
6. "It will need two engines to haul it," the Fat Controller explained. "If they pull really hard, they should just be back in time for the party!"



7. Donald and Douglas volunteered to take the freight train. They were harnessed one behind the other, then set off with the long line of trucks.

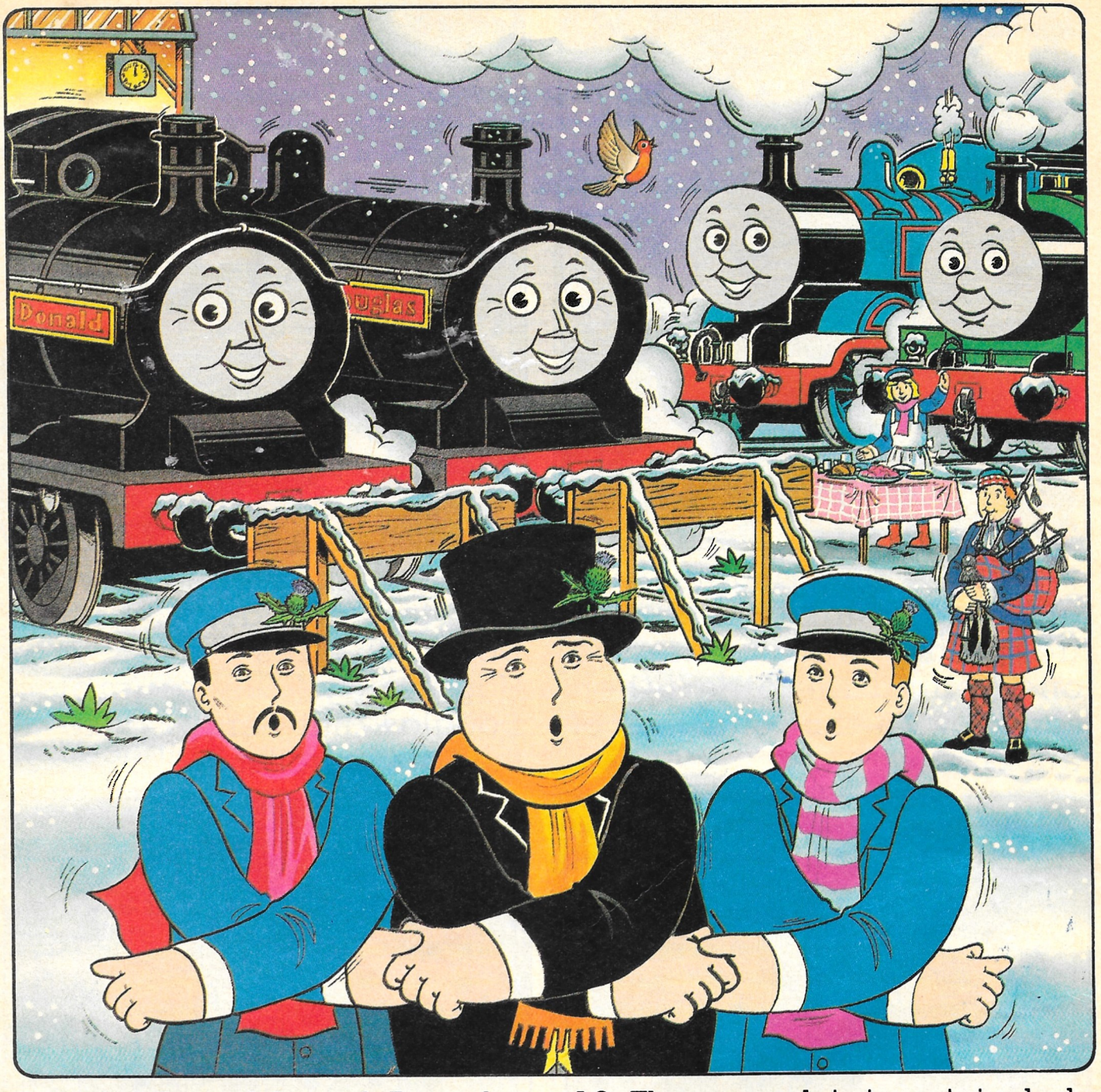


8. "We dinnae mind if we're late for the party," sighed Donald. "It's nae like Hogmanay!" grumbled Douglas. But Percy spoke to the Fat Controller.



9. "No wonder those twins looked gloomy," said the Fat Controller. "We'll soon change that!" After their usual work, Percy and Thomas were sent on special errands.

10. The Fat Controller had arranged for them to bring some extra people to the party. Everyone waited for Donald and Douglas before the celebrations began.



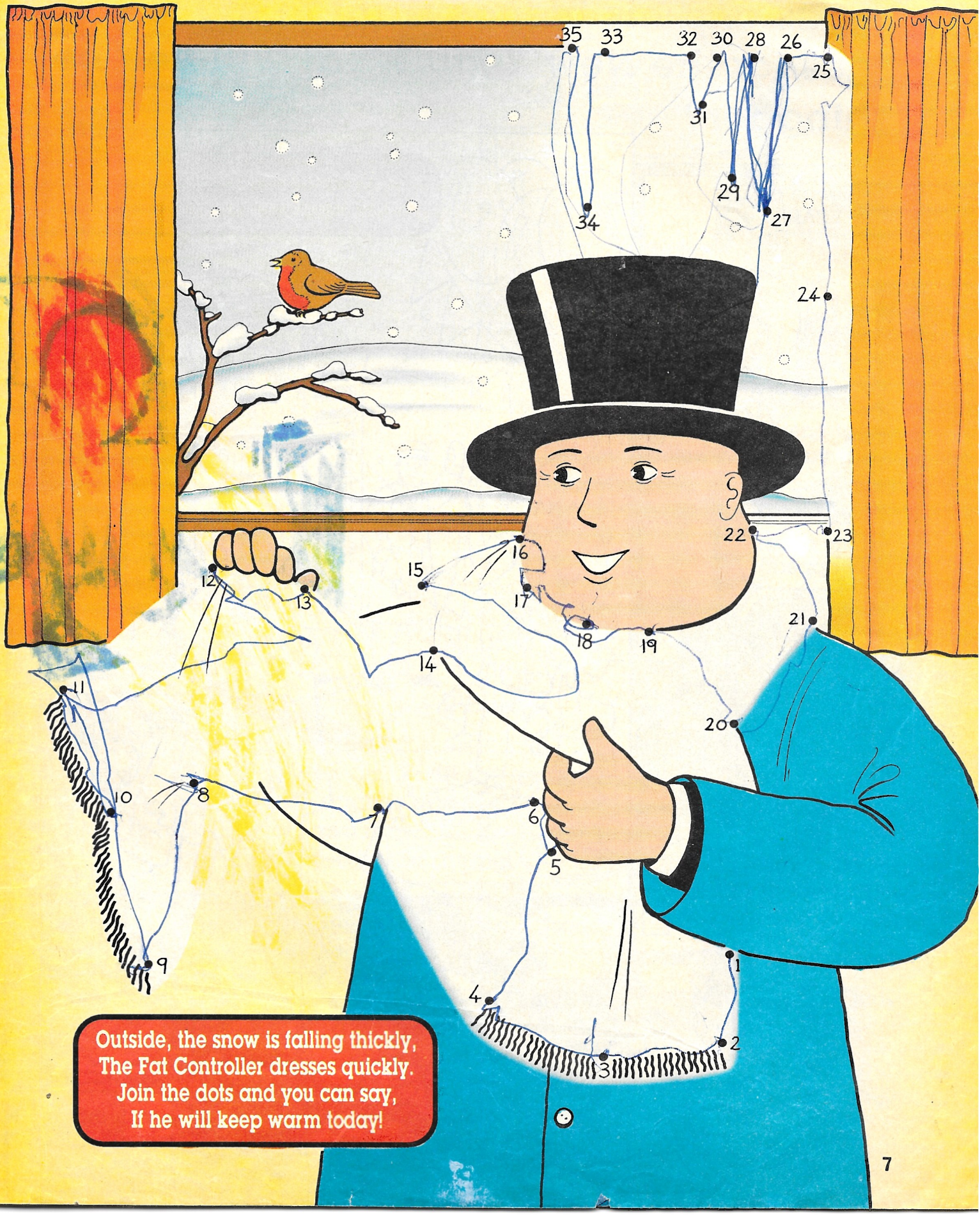
11. As Donald and Douglas puffed back to the yard, they heard Scottish pipers playing! Dancers in kilts were doing reels and a sword-dance on a stage in the yard. The railway staff clapped and cheered! Everyone wore a thistle, the national emblem of Scotland. Donald and Douglas could hardly believe their eyes!

12. There was lots to eat, including a special Scottish dish called haggis. When the station clock struck midnight, the engines sang 'Auld Lang Syne' with everybody and blew their whistles. A fireman arrived with a lump of coal to bring good luck, just like the old Scottish custom. "Och, aye! It's a proper Hogmanay, after all!" laughed Donald and Douglas happily.

THE END!

In our next issue: The Spooky Special!

JOIN THE DOTS!



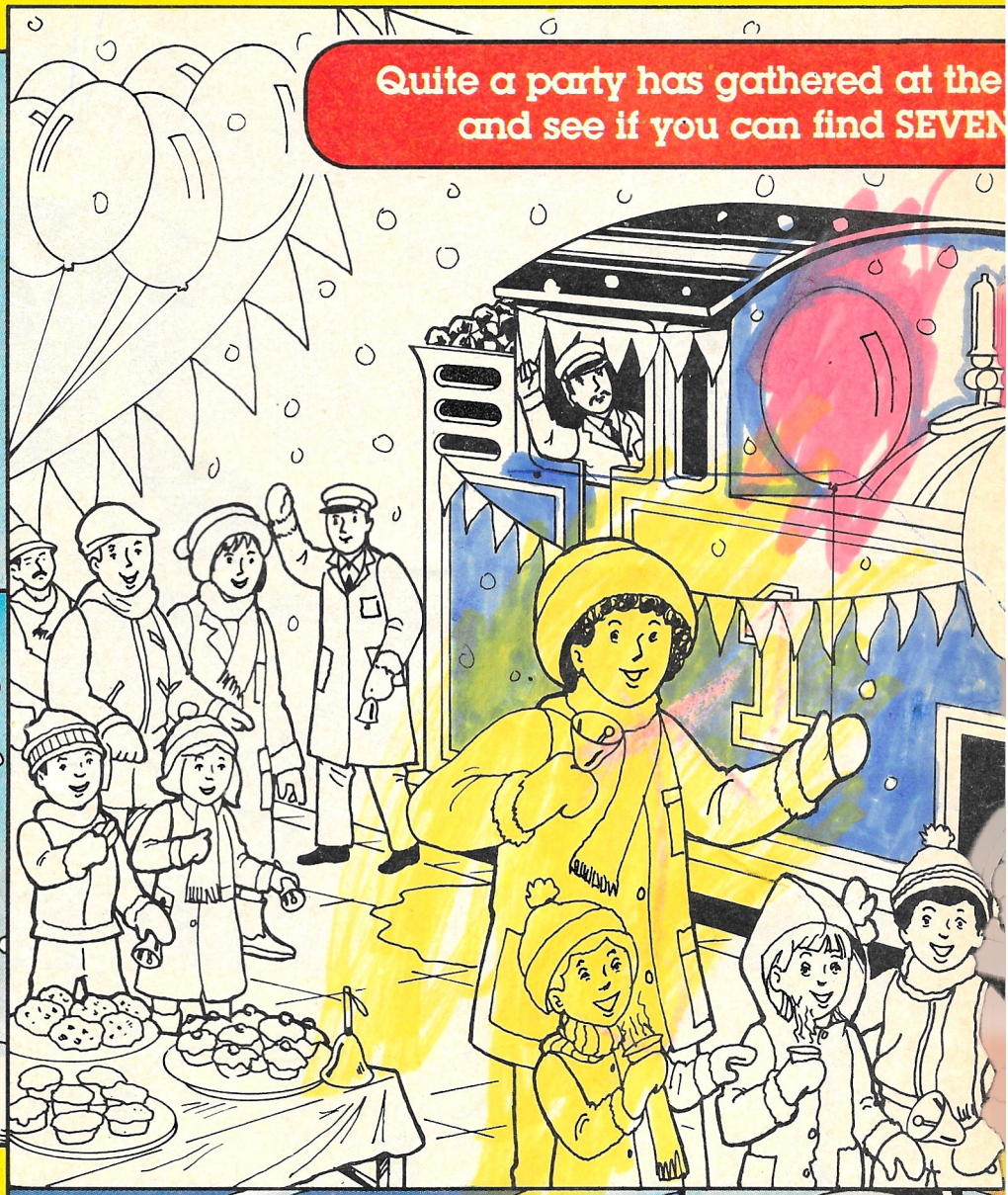
Outside, the snow is falling thickly,
The Fat Controller dresses quickly.
Join the dots and you can say,
If he will keep warm today!

NEW YEAR WISHES!

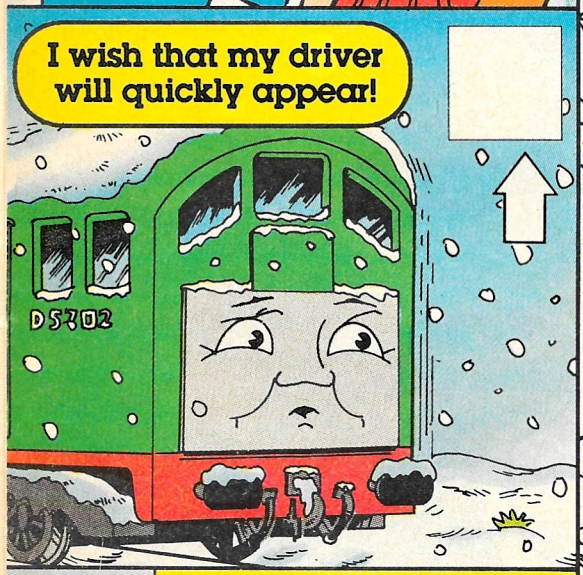
Thomas and his friends want to make wishes for the New Year! What will you be wishing for?

We wish everyone a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Quite a party has gathered at the
and see if you can find SEVEN

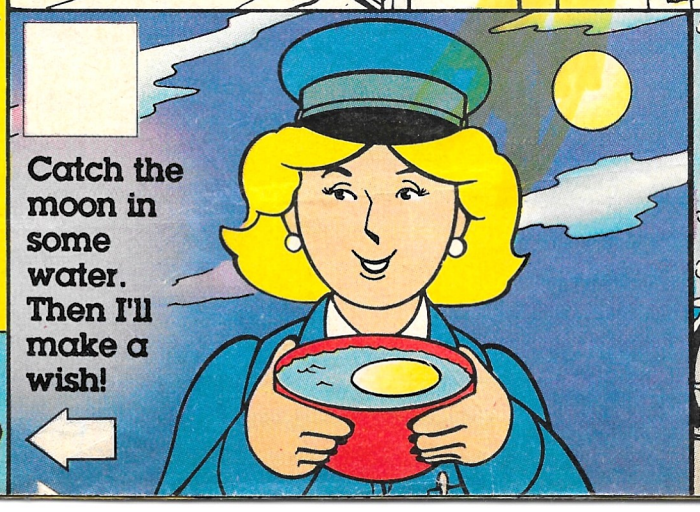


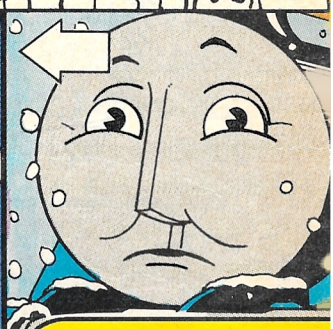
I wish that my driver will quickly appear!



I know what I wish for- A nice plate of fish!

Catch the moon in some water. Then I'll make a wish!

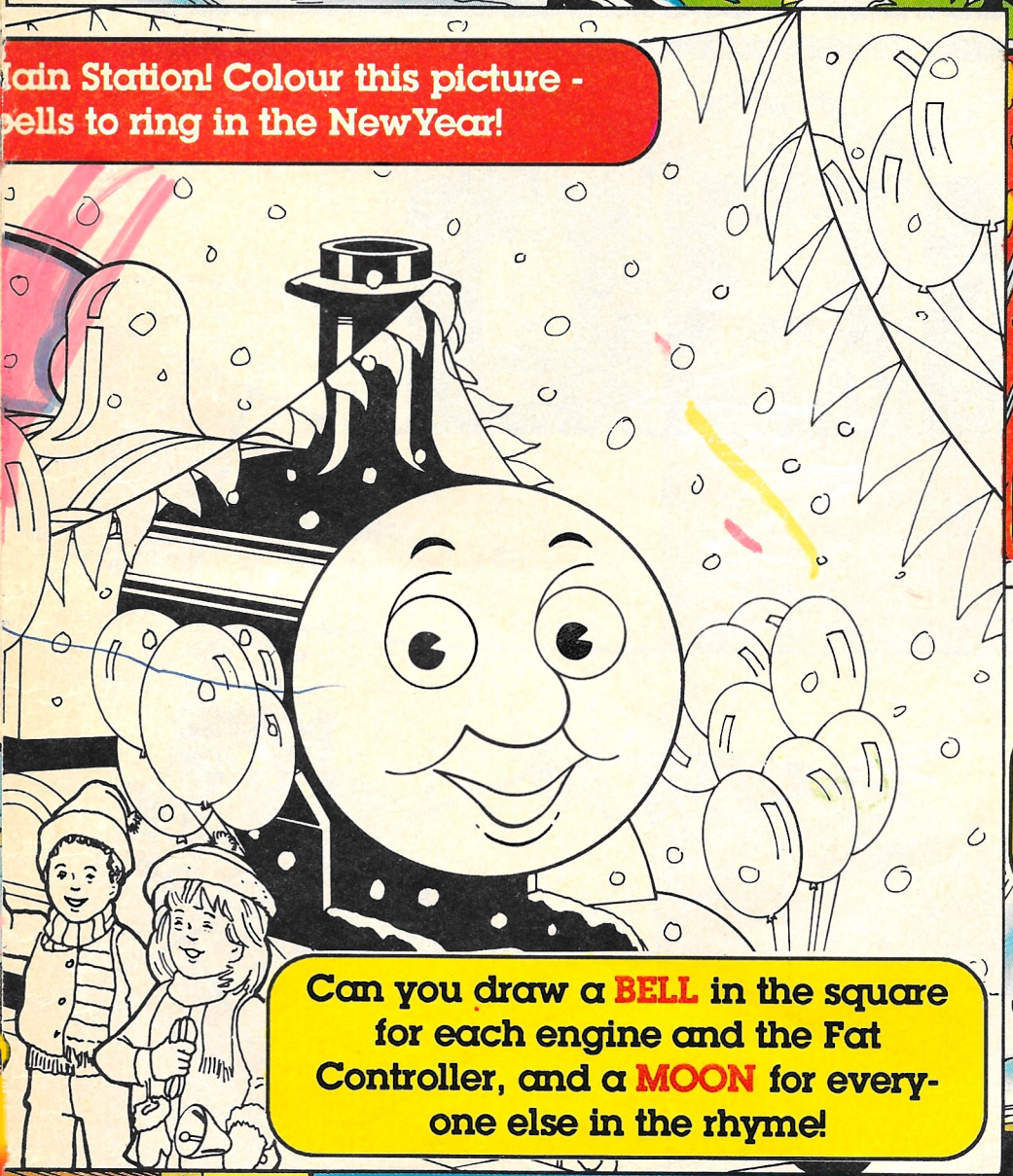




I wish that my fron wheels will quickly feel better!

I wish on the moon that I'm never late!

ain Station! Colour this picture - ells to ring in the New Year!



I wish for a friend-to come through my gate!

For my railway, I wish that all trains run on time!

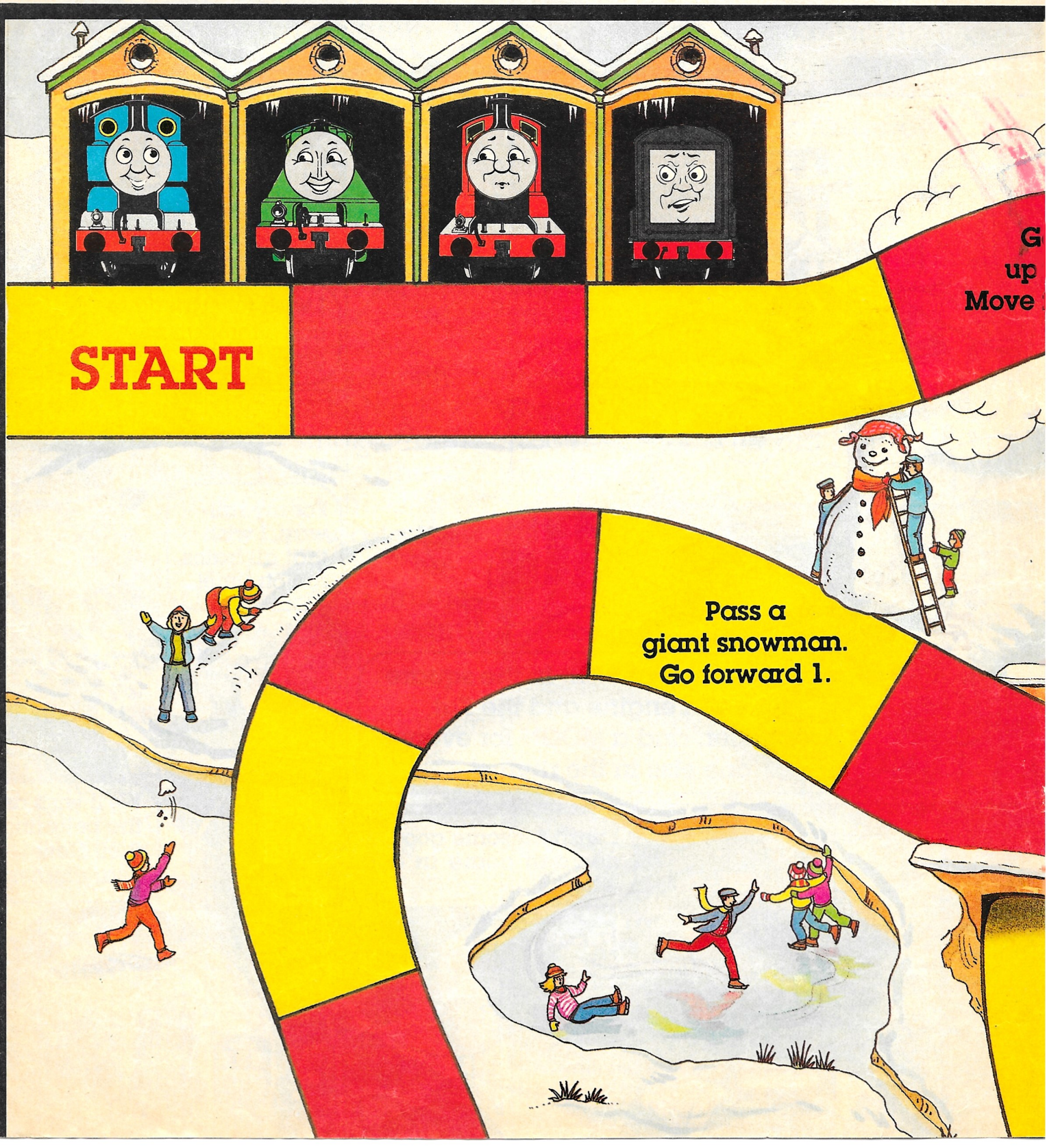
Can you draw a **BELL** in the square for each engine and the Fat Controller, and a **MOON** for everyone else in the rhyme!

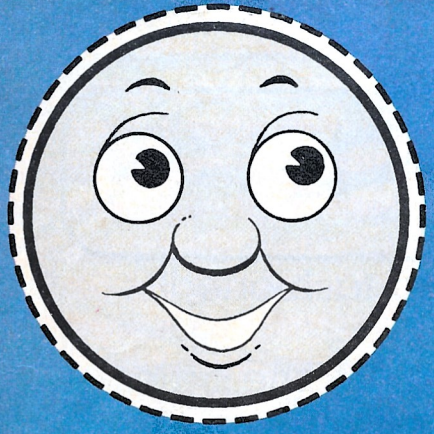
I wish for some good news to come in a letter!

We'll wish as the bells ring their New Year chimes!

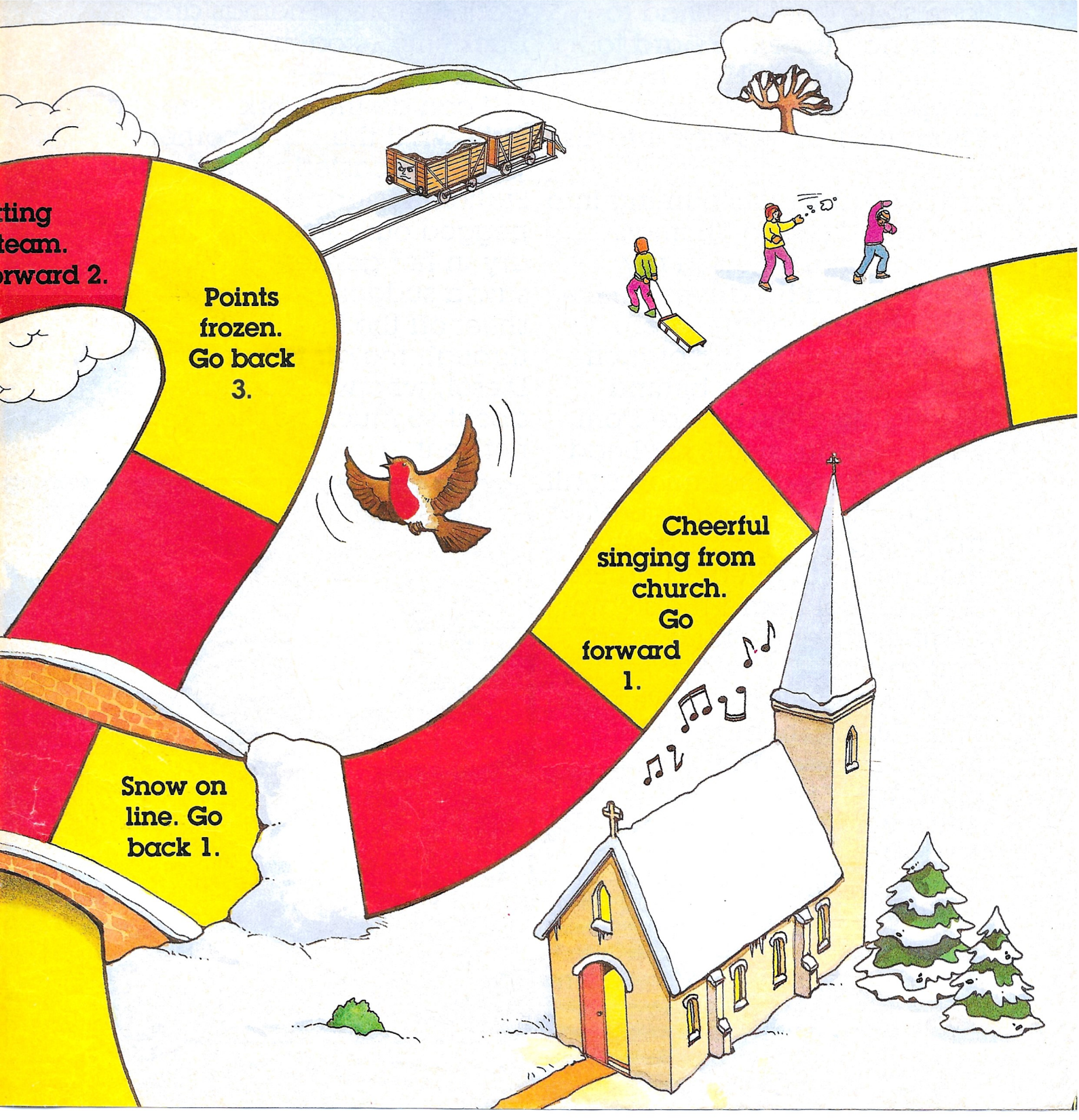
THOMAS'S GAME Part 1

This is the first part of **Thomas's dice game**. There are four parts altogether-so don't miss the next **three** issues of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**! Stick this double page on to thin card, cut the blue border off along the dotted lines, cut out your first counter- and wait for our next issue!





Can you see the big snowman?
How many guards are building him?
Point to the bird!
How many troublesome trucks can you see?
Point to the church!
How many children are ice-skating?



BLOWING ABOUT!

High winds buffeted the Island of Sodor. As Thomas was returning from the Big Harbour, fierce gusts of wind blew into his face so he knew he had to huff and puff extra hard to get up Gordon's Hill. The wind swept lots of smoke from Thomas's funnel back into his cab.

"It's hard work steaming into the wind," hissed Thomas.

"Your smoke gets in my eyes!" called his driver. The other steam engines were affected too. On the branch line, the wind was behind Duck. It sent the smoke from Duck's funnel swirling ahead of him. Duck didn't mind at all.

"The wind is helping to blow me along and go faster!" he thought. That evening, in the shed, Diesel heard the steam engines talking about wind and smoke.

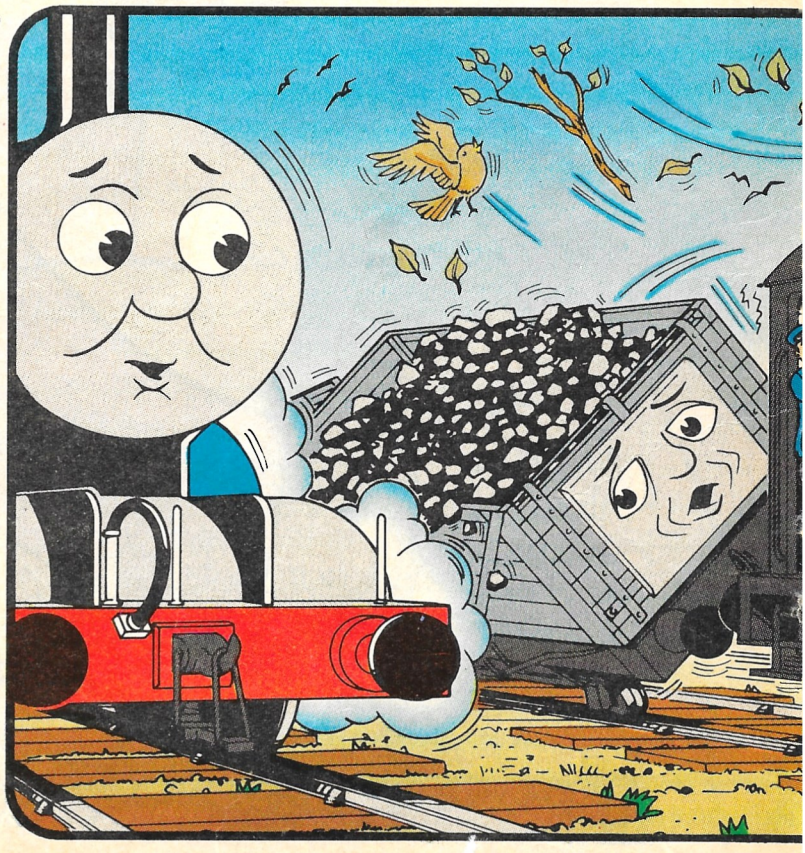
"My smoke is like a weather-vane," said Thomas. "It tells me which way the wind is blowing."

"It's very useful to know," agreed Duck, "especially in difficult gales!"

"Pah!" scoffed Diesel in his oily voice. "Wind and smoke don't bother a strong, modern diesel, like me! You steam engines are old fashioned!"

Next morning, the gales had eased but it was still windy. Diesel set to work, helping Thomas and Duck shunt coal-trucks in the yard.

"I can do the work faster on my own if the wind bothers you!" he boasted. Nearby, the Stationmaster's wife had pegged out some washing to dry in her garden. But Duck saw a sudden gust blow a big sheet off the line. It billowed through the air towards Diesel, who was rushing about so much he did not notice it.



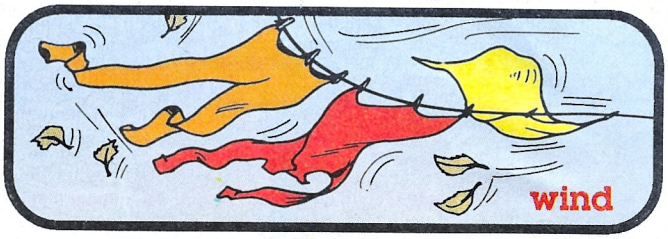
"Look out, Diesel!" warned Duck. "The wind has..."

"I don't care what the wind is doing!" he interrupted, before Duck had time to explain. "It won't bother me!" Suddenly, the sheet landed on Diesel and wrapped around his face like a blindfold. Diesel was shocked.

"Help! I can't see where I'm going!" he yelled.

Immediately, Diesel's driver slammed on the brakes. Sparks flew and Diesel almost jumped off the rails. As he shuddered to a halt, his coal trucks clattered and bumped. A coupling broke and one truck overturned, so its load toppled out.

The driver soon pulled the sheet off Diesel, then explained what had happened to the Stationmaster and the Fat Controller.



"It's a shame Diesel didn't see that sheet blowing towards him and warn you in time!" the Fat Controller told the driver.

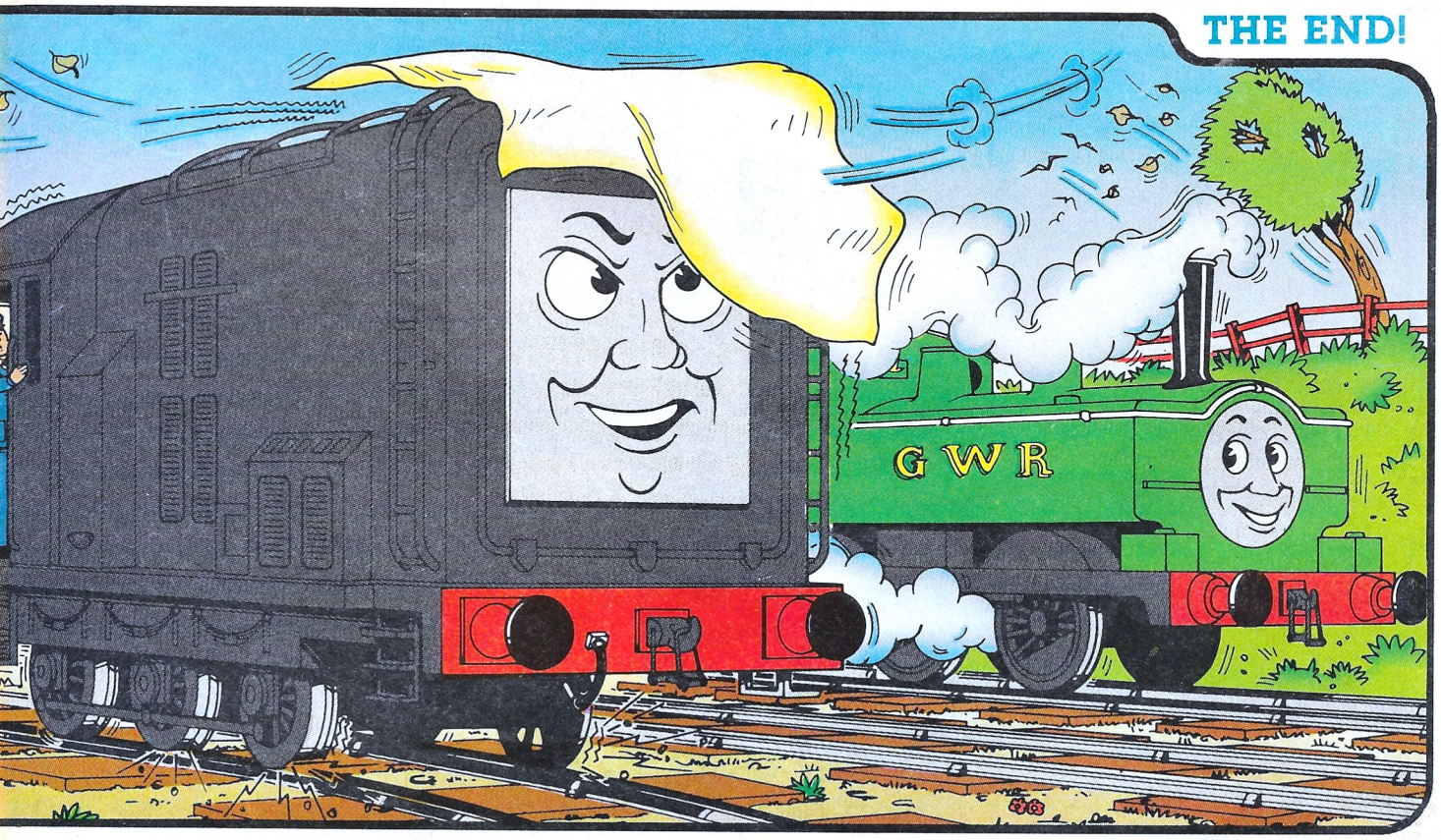
Diesel was strangely quiet as he went about his work, afterwards. All the steam engines had heard what had happened.

"Perhaps now Diesel will take note which way the wind blows!" said Duck.

Thomas agreed.

"I think that really put the wind up him!" he said!

THE END!



ERTL®

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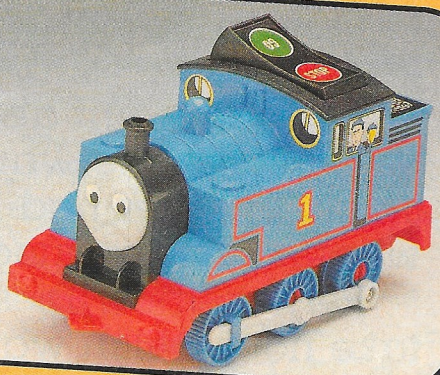
24 x 1st prize winners receive a Bump'n go Engine!



12 x 2nd prize winners receive a Thomas Train!

12 x 3rd prize winners receive Percy with trucks!

12 x 4th prize winners receive Toby with trucks!

How to enter!

Simply answer the following question:

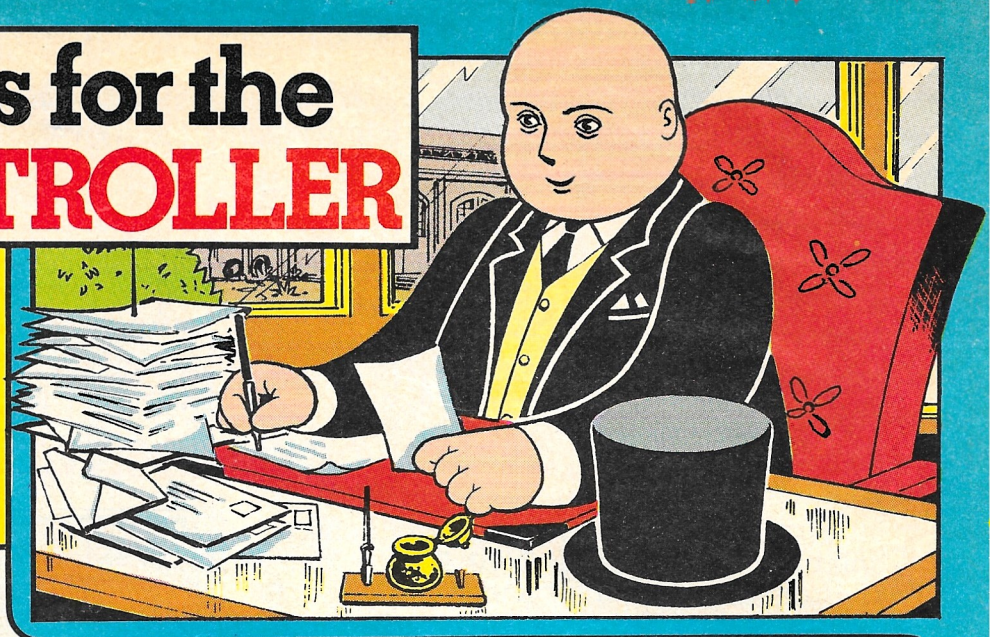
What colour is Toby?

Send your answers on a postcard with your name and address to... *Thomas (ERTL) Preschool Competition, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2R 3DX.*

Closing date; 28th January 1994.

This Competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics and ERTL (UK) Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I love Thomas and all his friends very much. I think all the trains are very lucky to be able to work with you, because you are so kind!

Love **Ellis**, aged 2.

Well I must say. I think I am the lucky one! I do have to work very hard on the railway, but the engines are always Really Useful and they complete their tasks very well!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ALERT ENGINES!

Dear Fat Controller,
When I go to see the trains with my mummy, they go past and say 'Peep! Peep!' They often frighten me! Why do trains have to 'Peep!' so loudly?

Love from **Mark Bryant**, aged 3.

I do assure you, the engines don't intend to startle you when they blow their whistles loudly. It's most important that railway workers can hear the engines approaching before they pass them on the line!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

ENGINE DRIVERS!

Dear Fat Controller,
I like **Thomas the Tank Engine**. When I go on holiday with my Nan and Grandad, we always go on a train just like **Thomas**. My Grandad likes trains too as he used to drive the engines! I hope I shall be a train driver one day!

Love from **William**, aged 6.

There are so many fine railways to travel on. It sounds as though your Grandad is a very fine engine driver and I'm sure he is very encouraged by your interest in railways.

BIRTHDAYS!

Shaun West, Rachel Byron-Moore, Matthew Everton, Stuart Beale, Shaunagh Purcell, Christopher Bird, Justin Sieker, Sam Salter, Rebecca Hearn and Lucy Errington.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

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The Island of Sodor
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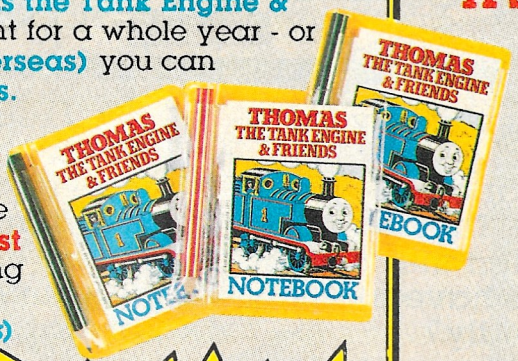
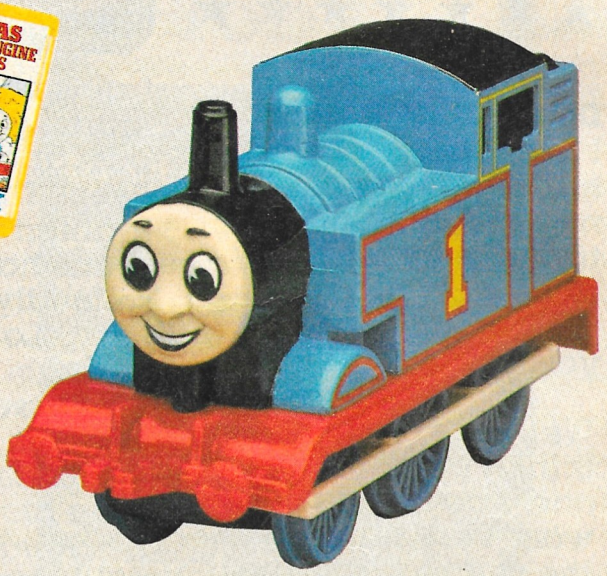
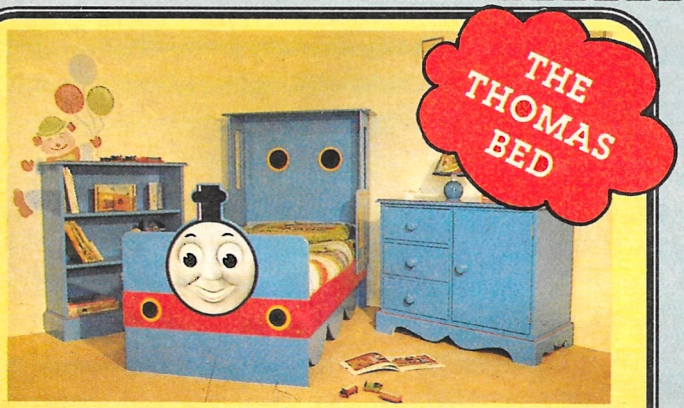


JOSHUA JONES BED DETAILS BELOW!

A SPLENDID GIFT FOR YOU!



THOMAS BED ADVERT ▼



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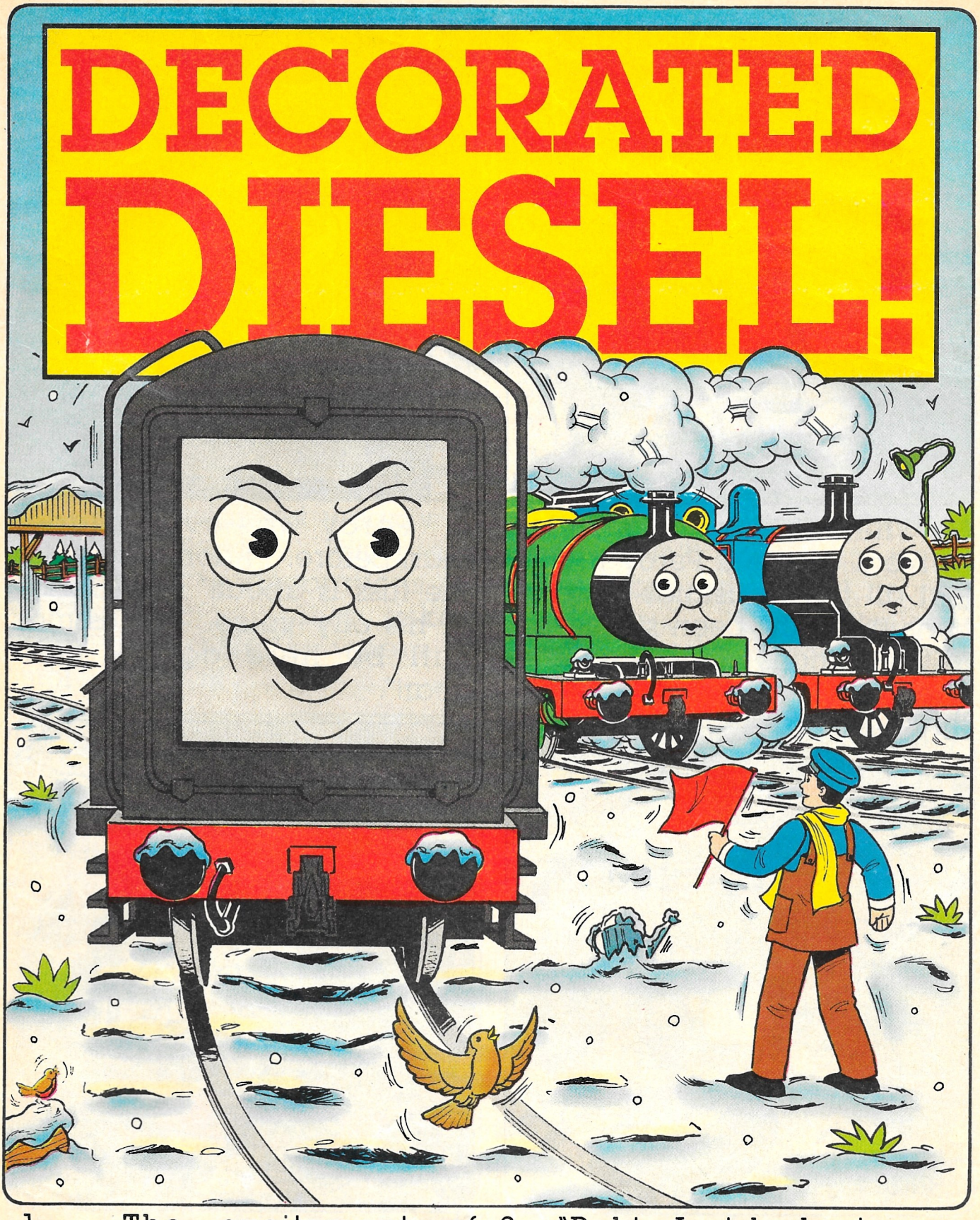
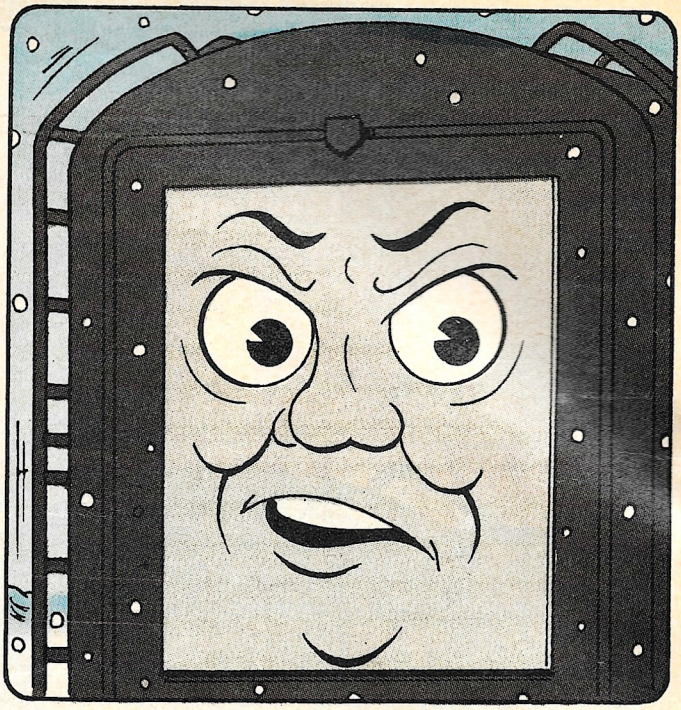
DECORATED DIESEL!



1. The excitement of Christmas was over and the engines felt depressed. Only Diesel did not seem to mind that all the grand celebrations had ended.

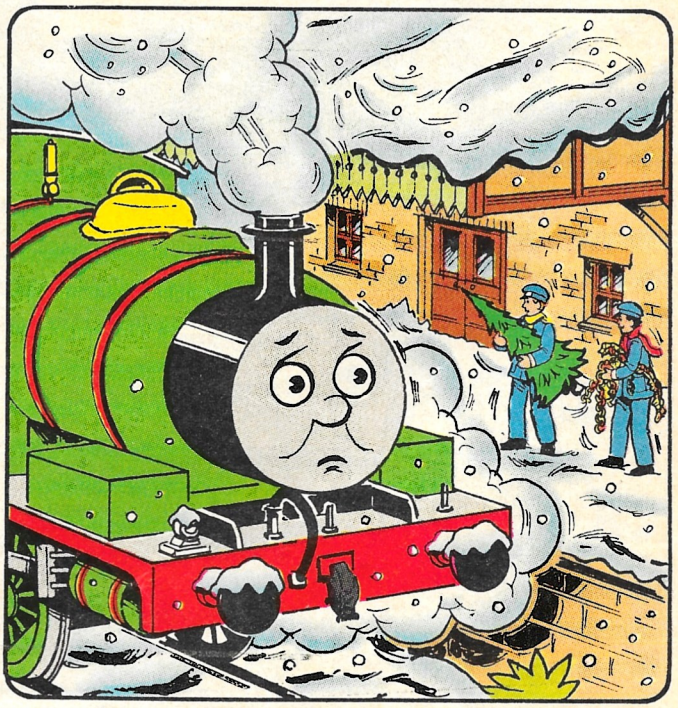
2. "Pah! Just look at your long faces!" he snorted at the others in the Main Station yard. "Anyone would think you're to be broken up for scrap!".

3. Then the Fat Controller arrived. He sent Percy to collect all the Christmas decorations that had been strung up at the stations along the main line.



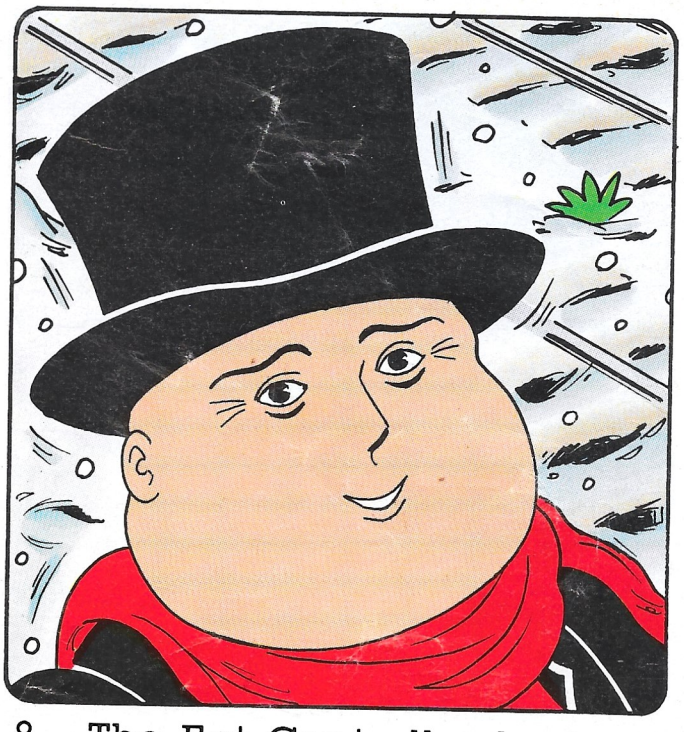
4. Percy was even sadder than before. "I don't see what the fuss is about!" said Diesel, in his oily voice. "Christmas will be here again, next year!".

5. "It's a long time to wait!" sighed Percy. "Rubbish!" mocked Diesel. It was getting windy as Percy set off. He visited station after station.

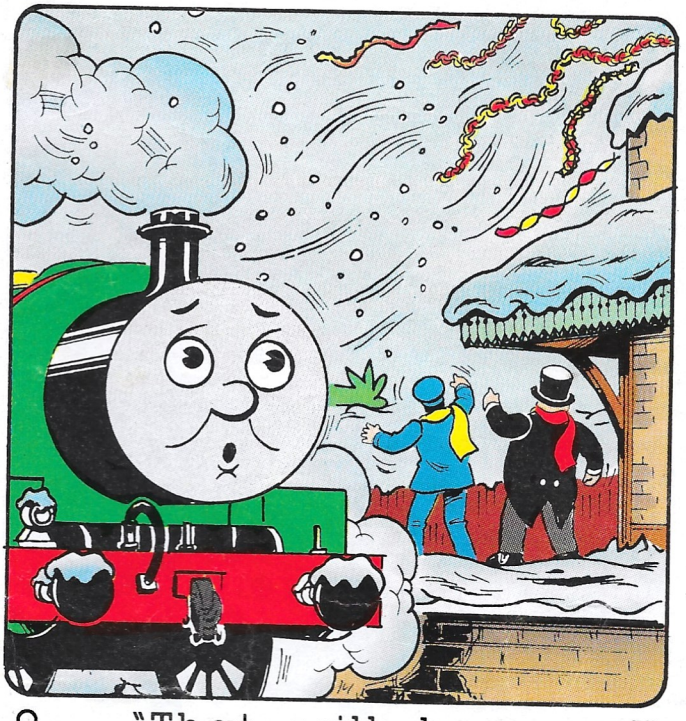


6. Percy waited patiently while each stationmaster stacked decorations into his guard's van. "Everywhere looks really dull without them," he thought.

7. Percy returned wearily to the Main Station. His guard unloaded the decorations on to the platform, then asked the Fat Controller where to store them all.

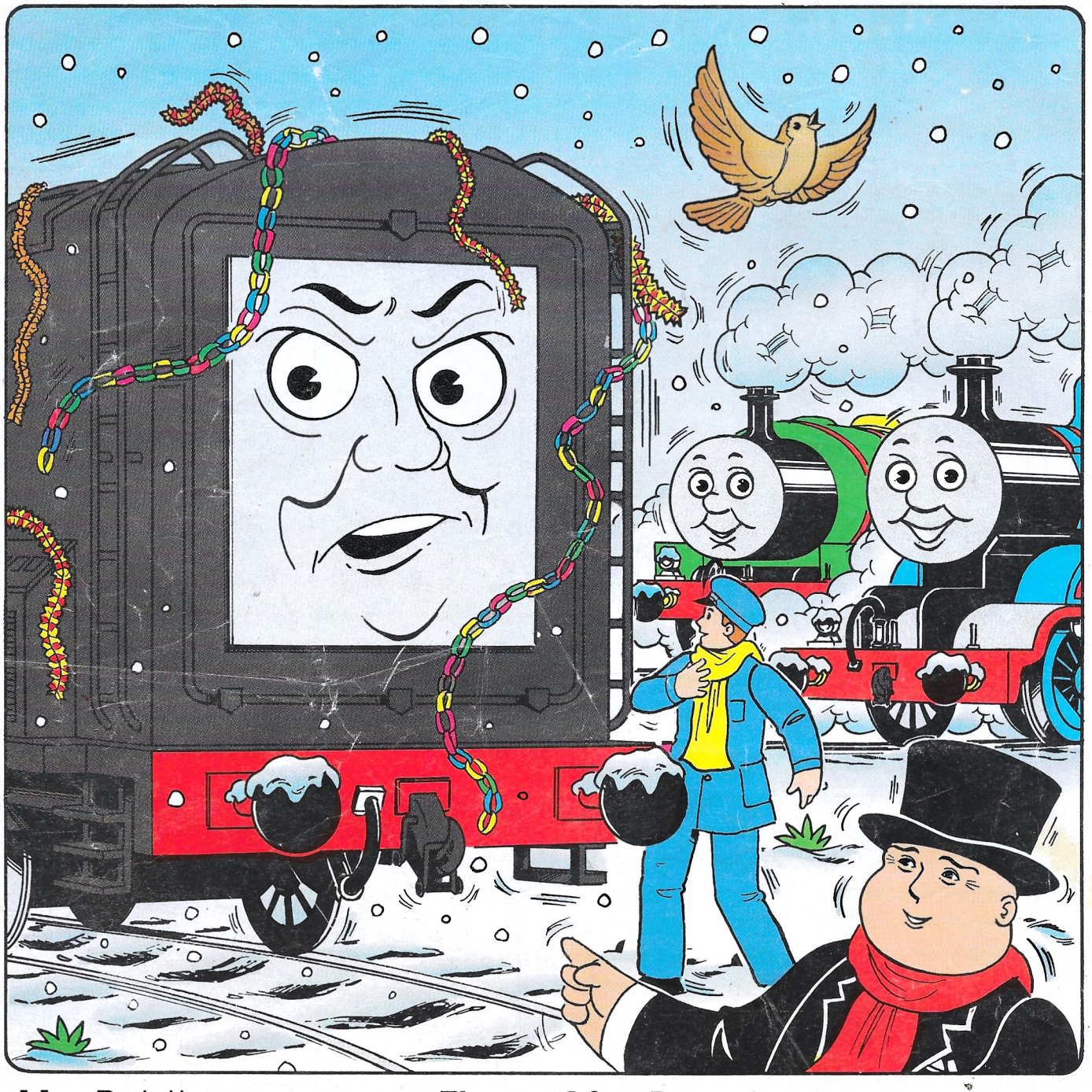


8. The Fat Controller had an idea. "We'll keep them in the 'Lost Property' office," he told the guard. "They'll be safe there till we need them again!"



9. "That will be ages!" groaned Percy, gloomily. Suddenly, a big gust blew some of the decorations into the air and right over the station roof.

10. "Oh no! They really will be lost property if we can't catch them!" cried Percy. His driver and guard ran across the yard, chasing the decorations.



11. But it was no use. They flew out of sight, beyond the engine shed. "We'll never get them now!" said Percy's driver. Meanwhile, Diesel was shunting trucks in a siding at the far end of the yard. As the wind dropped, the decorations fell on him and he pulled up sharply, so his trucks bumped and clattered.

12. Percy's crew heard the noise and went to see what had happened. Then Percy and the other engines saw Diesel appear from the siding with paper chains and tinsel draped all over him. "Diesel's wearing the decorations!" chuckled Percy. "Admit it, Diesel, you couldn't wait till next Christmas after all!"

THE END!

In our next issue: Thomas and the Ball!